

rollcall vote No. 685, No. 686, and No. 687 on the floor of the House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay, Yea, and Yea, respectively.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for Roll Call votes 685, 686, and 687 on Monday, December 18, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "Nay" on Roll Call vote 685 and "Yea" on 686 and 687.

TESTIMONY OF MARGARET ZHENG

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD testimony of Margaret Zheng.

As a Chinese American, I may be hurt by affirmative action, but as a citizen of the global 21st century, I also feel that diverse representation in work and education is necessary to foster a sense of unity underlying diversity.

From this apparent contradiction of feelings, I have concluded that just like how it's difficult to cure advanced-stage cancer, we can't solve discrimination only after harm is done. Rather, we must treat the sickness of hate early on.

In school, we rarely study social minorities except as victims of history, omitting the positive, active roles that females, Muslims, Chinese, LGBTQ+ persons, etc. have had in culture and innovation. Liberal/Democrat students and conservative/Republican students tease and even taunt each other in school, and as a political independent, I often feel swallowed up in tribalized politics, afraid to be labeled a heartless conservative or naïve liberal.

The lack of discussion of socially and politically diverse perspectives in school perpetuates prejudice and endangers individuality, upon which value America was founded. That combined with the inequitable funding of schools and the billions of dollars wasted in high-stakes assessments that label rather than help struggling schools is what caused the need for affirmative action in the first place.

Educate us holistically, on citizenship and collaboration and empathy, and we will not only have diversity, but also a nation thriving.

REMEMBERING JAMES THOMAS "JIM" BEVIS

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Jim Bevis, a friend

and constituent from Mississippi's Fourth District.

Jim grew up, just down the beach from Mississippi, in Pensacola, Florida. He attended the University of West Florida earning a degree in banking and finance. In 1980, Jim launched what would become a longstanding career in finance and budget analysis at NASA Headquarters (Washington, D.C.), in the Budget Operations Division. Later, he spent a year at Goddard Space Flight Center, in Greenbelt, Maryland. Over the next decade, Jim's career would soar to new heights as a budget analyst responsible for the Office of Space Science programs, then as the lead analyst for the Comptroller for all of NASA's space science programs, with a budget of nearly \$1.5 billion. From 1993 to 95, Jim served as a special assistant to the Chief Scientist at NASA, managing budget analyses for a variety of agency topics—Earth, space, microgravity, and life sciences.

Thankfully, Jim's success landed him a position at Mississippi's Stennis Space Center where, in 2002, he was named Chief Financial Officer. He was still serving in that position at the time of his unexpected death in November.

Jim earned numerous awards for his excellent performance and dedicated service to the NASA and Stennis communities. One especially memorable one, unique to our Gulf Coast, was the NASA Commendation Award for Hurricane Katrina Recovery.

Jim carried with him a passion for exceptional work and a rock solid commitment to serving well in his career at NASA. His full comprehension of the public's trust, as Chief Financial Officer, drew the respect and appreciation of NASA's leadership.

Regrettably, Jim's life was cut short just days before his 62nd birthday. I also wish to honor his sons, Nolan & Nicholas today, along with their mother, Sherri Carr Bevis, who is also a public servant and Gulf Coast friend.

Jim enjoyed playing tennis and strumming Beatles tunes on his guitar. He was also deeply involved in his beloved Jacob's Well church family. The life that was Jim Bevis is greatly appreciated and will be missed.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF COLONEL WILLIAM DAVID BARTON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Colonel (COL) William David Barton's thirty-one years of service in the Mississippi Army National Guard (MSARNG). COL Barton began his military career on August 13, 1986, when he enlisted as a Cannon Crewman in Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery in his hometown of Kosciusko, Mississippi. He later received his commission through the ROTC program at the University of Mississippi, where he graduated with a degree in marketing in 1990.

COL Barton has served the MSARNG in staff positions at the battalion, brigade and state staff levels, and held command positions

at the platoon, company and battalion levels. In 2005, he was deployed to Iraq with the 155th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) where he first served as Brigade Personnel Officer for the 155th BCT, and then served as the Battalion Operations Officer for 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery. He has held the position of Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel since February 1, 2015.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Achievement Medal (with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (with one Silver and three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), the National Defense Service Medal (with one Star), the Iraq Campaign Medal (with two Campaign Stars), the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with Gold Hourglass, M Device, and Numeral 2), the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Combat Action Badge, the Air Assault Badge, the National Guard Basic Recruiter Badge, the Mississippi Magnolia Cross (with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), the Mississippi Magnolia Medal (with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), the Mississippi Commendation Medal, the Mississippi War Medal (with one Star), the Mississippi Emergency Service Medal, the Mississippi Service School Ribbon (with one Silver and one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), the Mississippi Longevity Medal (with one Silver and one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), and the Mississippi Recruiting Medal.

When asked about his years in the MSARNG, COL Barton said, "I have been blessed to serve with some of the finest people in the world over the last 31 years. It has been an amazing experience and I am glad to have been able to serve my country and my state in both peacetime and during war. The service members I have served with truly embody the National Guard motto of 'Always Ready, Always There' and I could not be more proud of my service alongside them."

Throughout his career and in preparation for his upcoming retirement, Colonel Barton has been supported by his loving family, including his parents, Gerald and Peggy Barton; his three sisters; his wife, Jennifer Barton; and his four daughters, Brittany Burnham, Ashley Smith, Kelly Barton and Hannah Kelly.

I am thankful for Colonel Barton's many years of military service, and I am proud to call him my friend. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall votes No. 685 through 687 due to a death in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted "Nay" on the motion to fix the convening time, "Yea" on H.R. 4375, STEM Research and Education Effectiveness and Transparency Act, and "Yes" on H.R. 3979, Keep Americas Refugees Operational Act.